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Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) ~~A system as claimed in Claim 1,~~ A local communication system comprising:

a first cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of messages via a first data bus and in accordance with a first set of communication protocols;

a second cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of messages via a second data bus and in accordance with said first set of communication protocols; and

a data channel linking said first cluster and said second cluster, said data channel supporting communication of messages in accordance with a second set of communications protocols,

wherein a device of the first cluster holds a stored software representation of operational features of a selected device of the second cluster and any device of the first cluster wishing to interact with said selected device instead interacts with said stored representation, and

wherein said stored representation is modified in response to limitations of said data channel.

4. (Currently amended) ~~A system as claimed in Claim 2,~~ A local communication system comprising:

a first cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of messages via a first data bus and in accordance with a first set of communication protocols;

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a second cluster of devices interconnected for the communication of messages via a second data bus and in accordance with said first set of communication protocols; and

a data channel linking said first cluster and said second cluster, said data channel supporting communication of messages in accordance with a second set of communications protocols,

wherein a device of the first cluster holds a stored software representation of operational features of a selected device of the second cluster and any device of the first cluster wishing to interact with said selected device instead interacts with said stored representation,

wherein said stored representation is generated by said selected device and transmitted via said data channel to said device of the first cluster, and

wherein said stored representation is modified, on receipt by said device of the first cluster, in response to limitations of said data channel.

5-14   (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended)   ~~The system of claim 14,~~ A communication system comprising:

a first cluster of devices interconnected via a first data bus and adapted to communicate in accordance with a first set of communication protocols;

a second cluster of devices interconnected via a second data bus and adapted to communicate in accordance with said first set of communication protocols; and

a data channel linking said first data bus and said second data bus, said data channel adapted to support communication of messages between the first and second clusters in accordance with a second set of communications protocols;

wherein a first device of the first cluster stores a software representation of operational features of a selected device of the second cluster, permitting a second

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device of the first cluster to control the selected device by executing the software representation,

wherein said stored software representation is modified, on receipt by said first device of the first cluster, in response to limitations of said data channel.

16-17 (Canceled)

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